

FORUM

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The fee increase will provide money for faculty and staff pay raises and reduction of the school's budget, Bowen said.

"Incidentally, a \$10 increase produces \$11 million," he said.

Bowen warned students about impending actions to pay the remainder of the school's deficits.

"We will ask for another fee increase next year," he said. "We've got similar problems to deal with next year."

The forum participants also addressed the proposed cultures classes currently debated on campus.

Cantrell said the Faculty Senate has no wish to increase the burden on students.

"The goal is that it doesn't increase the number of hours that you're taking," he said.

Cantrell also stressed the Faculty Senate's belief that students will need exposure to other cultures and peoples in order to participate more completely in the 21st century workplace to come.

"We actually feel that students will be at a disadvantage without some of this type of material," he said.

Silloway supported Cantrell-

l's comments, saying the Faculty Senate bill is well-written.

"I feel that one of the jobs of the faculty is to set the curriculum," she said.

Silloway also commented on the tabling of a bill to repeal support for cultures classes by the Student Senate.

"I've heard a lot of complaints from students: 'Just do something. We don't care what you do anymore,'" Silloway said. "The senators don't feel they have the full range of opinions right now."

The panel and audience also discussed the construction of new buildings on campus, renovation of current structures and the addition of new parking facilities.

Bowen said the George Bush Library is an extremely important addition to the facilities of A&M.

"In terms of accessibility, it will be just like the Evans Library," he said. "It will be a student resource."

The addition of the library will also bring greater recognition to A&M, more political figures will wish to speak here and President Bush himself will make the occasional teaching appearance, Bowen said.

Additional campus parking will be added to support the flow of people to the Bush Library, he said.

Campus parking in general was a concern of the students and administrators at the fo-

rum. Students expressed concerns about resident, commuter and game-day parking.

Silloway said that students are getting a bad deal when it comes to parking, especially on game days when alumni often have reserved parking, and students are forced to move their cars and walk pretty long distances.

"We're the Twelfth Man," she said, "and we're walking twelve miles to get there."

Bowen outlined several parking construction projects students can expect in the relevant future, including parking for the George Bush Library, a 2,000 to 3,000 space West Campus parking garage, and 500 spaces added in an Evans Library parking garage.

Campus safety and lighting were also discussed, and Bowen said that since the University had no money to add additional police resources, students should be aware of the dangers on campus.

"The campus is misleading in that it seems safe," he said. "I think anyone out there at night ought to be very careful, particularly women students."

Panelists dispelled rumors that A&M would try to acquire a law school in the recent future and said studies to examine adding new dorm space to campus had begun.

Students attending the forum had differing opinions about the purpose and effectiveness of the event.

Niels Beuer, a graduate computer science student, said speaking to the administrators and leaders in person was a big plus of the event.

"It was interesting to see both the president of the University and the speaker of the Faculty Senate in agreement," Beuer said.



"We will ask for another fee increase next year."

- Dr. Ray Bowen
president, Texas A&M

Refik Sahin, a freshman civil engineering major, said the forum provided an educational opportunity for students who need grounding for their opinions.

"I think this is a good outlet for them to form a more informed opinion," he said.

The moderator of the discussion, MSC Political Forum Campus Issue Director Clint Dupew, a junior political science major, said the discussion went well, and the issues discussed were important.

"Everyone had a lot of prudent questions," Dupew said.

MSC: Anniversary recognizes students

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of students, she said, which shows how the MSC has diversified with the student body.

Jim Reynolds, MSC director, said many institutions come and go, but the MSC has shown it is still accommodating the needs of students by celebrating a 45th anniversary.

Reynolds, who has worked with the MSC for 17 years, said the goals of the MSC have remained unchanged, but some philosophies have been rethought to encourage growth within the MSC organizations.

"The MSC was losing vitality in the late 1970s," he said. "The problem was that the organizational structure did not allow the MSC to incorporate new organizations and students. This changed in the early 1980s."

"We have tripled the number of students [involved] and quadrupled the number of programs the MSC offers each year."

Reynolds said the MSC has improved the quality and magnitude of programs being produced. He said the students involved with the MSC are learning greater leadership skills by working with world leaders.

"There is a whole host of things we can do that we couldn't do 15 years ago," he said. "Bringing in speakers like Jimmy Carter, Colon Powell, Margaret Thatcher gives students an opportunity to produce world-class programs."

"Students can ask questions and work closely with people who have created the environment of the last few decades of this century."

Reynolds said the MSC anniversary recognizes the students, past and present, who have made the MSC what it is today.

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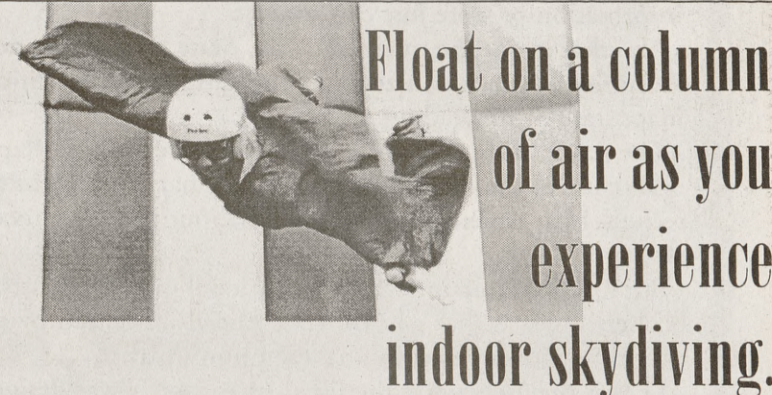
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